



EUROPE: In England, Denmark, and extreme southern Sweden, occasional showers (12-35 mm, locally near 70 mm) hampered late winter wheat harvesting. Similarly, periodic showers (11-31 mm) in the Benelux countries, Germany, northern Poland, and Austria slowed winter grain and oilseed planting, but maintained adequate moisture supplies for early germinating crops. In France, isolated showers (12-50 mm) missed primary corn- and sunflower-producing areas, helping sunflower harvesting and corn maturation. Farther south, mainly dry weather in Spain and Portugal spurred corn, cotton, rice, and sunflower maturation and harvesting. Similarly, dry weather covered all but extreme northeastern Italy, where late-week showers (13-39 mm) likely caused some summer crop harvesting delays. In southeastern Europe, dry weather persisted from Slovenia, Hungary, and Romania southward, hampering winter grain planting and early germination. Unseasonably warm weather hastened summer crop maturation across much of Europe, with temperatures averaging about 1 to 4 degrees C above normal in the east and about 2 to 5 degrees C above normal in the west. During August, near- to below-normal rainfall in western Europe and Scandinavia favored winter grain harvesting; however, soil moisture remained abundant for developing summer crops. In Germany and Poland, frequent showers delayed winter wheat harvesting, but aided filling summer crops. Elsewhere in eastern Europe, below-normal rainfall with periodic heat in the south intensified drought and further reduced yield prospects for filling corn and sunflowers.